

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 OSLO 03414 150540Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6153

S E C R E T OSLO 3414

FOR MR. VEST ONLY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, MPOL, NO
SUBJECT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF DESIGNATION OF MARINE UNIT FOR NORWEGIAN RE-
INFORCEMENT

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A REAL POSSIBILITY THAT A US MARINE
BRIGADE MAY BE DESIGNATED FOR THE WARTIME REINFORCEMENT OF
NORWAY. AS I AM SURE YOU APPRECIATE, THIS USG DECISION WILL
HAVE TREMENDOUS POSITIVE POLITICAL IMPACT IN NORWAY.

2. I AM SCHEDULED TO GIVE A MAJOR ADDRESS TO THE NORWEGIAN
NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE IN OCTOBER. THIS IS AN ANNUAL EVENT
AND IS THE TRADITIONAL INTRODUCTION FOREIGN AFFAIRS LECTURE
FOR THE INCOMING DEFENSE COLLEGE CLASS. THIS FORUM HAS BEEN
USED IN THE PAST TO MAKE SUBSTANTIVE AMERICAN POLICY POINTS
(SVALBARD'S SUPPORT IN 76, OUTLINE OF NEW ADMINISTRATION'S
FOREIGN DEFENSE POLICIES IN 77) AND I WOULD LIKE, IF POSSIBLE,
TO USE THE OCCASION TO ANNOUNCE THE EARMARKING OF THE MAB.
NOT ONLY WOULD IT BE FLATTERING TO THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY
BUT IT WOULD GIVE REAL MEAT TO THE SUBSTANCE OF MY ADDRESS
THIS YEAR WHICH I INTEND TO DESIGN AROUND THE THEME OF
AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO NORTHERN DEFENSE.

3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS A COMPLICATED ISSUE THAT
INVOLVES MANY DIFFERENT INTERESTS IN THE DEFENSE

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DEPARTMENT AND THAT AT SOME POINT WE WILL HAVE TO CONSULT
WITH NATO AND OUR ALLIES. HOWEVER, NONETHELESS, I WOULD
APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD ADVISE ME ON THE STATUS OF THE
MAB DESIGNATION AND WHETHER IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE FOR ME TO
MAKE THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN MY OCTOBER ADDRESS.
MANY THANKS AND BEST PERSONAL REGARDS. LOU
LERNER

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NNN

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